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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Costa Rica/Nicaragua

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1. The morale of the Costa Rican Government forces was greatly improved as of 20 March by the organizing influence of a Nicaraguan, Laslo Pataky. Pataky is of Hungarian origin, states that he fought with De Gaulle and Catroux for four years, and wears Free French decorations. Pataky ordered the followings:
- a) The closing of the Guadalupe Military School. This is an ineffective order as this building, which housed the United States trained mobile unit, is already practically abandoned.
  - b) That President Picado sleep in the premises of the Artillery Headquarters. This has been carried out.
  - c) That gasoline and oil supplies be controlled. This has been put into effect.
  - d) That there be a curfew after 2100 and that the streets be cleared. This is not in effect.
  - e) That Somoza send twelve able Guardia officers to be used as follows: four to reorganize the Police Force; four to organize the services of the Army, that is, the G-1, G-2, etc.; and four instructors to supervise rapid courses in basic training.
2. On 19 March, President Picado, General Rene Picado, Colonel Diego Lopez and the Nicaraguan Minister in Costa Rica, Morales, met. President Picado stated that Somoza had informed him that the Costa Rican situation is already an international problem. At the same meeting, Pataky was present, and said that now that he had inspected all quarters and aerial views of the contested areas, he would leave on 20 March on a Government-controlled LACSA plane for Managua, accompanied by Colonel Lopez, to report to Somoza. Pataky stated that his plan was to have a picked unit, or units, of Guardia proceed by land from the area of Cape Santa Elena in Costa Rica through the province of Guanacaste, clearing all the opposition north of San Jose. Once in San Jose, the units would proceed against the forces of Figueres, wherever they might be found. Pataky said the Nicaraguan force would be led by a Colonel Reyes.

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the combined Costa Rican-Nicaraguan forces

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- 2 -

led by Major Miguel Canales and Captain Ernesto Krueger, Nicaraguan officers, would attack the Figueres stronghold south of Cartago in an attempt to capture Figueres.

4. On 18 March, Somoza is reported to have told President Picado that two ships, not flying flags, believed to have come from Guatemala, were sighted in the vicinity of Fonseca Gulf, a gulf on which Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador border. Somoza said his planes fired on the ships, and that they then hoisted Nicaraguan flags. Somoza told Picado that it was later established that the ships were not Nicaraguan.

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